Constitution of its own Election Commission by Hurriyat Conference

*247. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hurriyat Conference has constituted its own Election Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Hurriyat Conference made an announcement on 28th January, 2002 about its intention to establish its own election commission to elect representatives who would participate in any negotiations on Kashmir. Hurriyat Conference further announced on 12th February; 2002 the composition of the proposed election commission. As per the Hurriyat, the said commission would be governed by rules to be framed later.

Election to the Legislative Assembly of the State of Jammu & Kashmir are held in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of Jammu & Kashmir and are conducted by and under the supervision of the Election Commission of India. No other body/institution has any *locus standi* in the matter.

Proposal to Procure Weapons from the USA

†*248. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are considering any proposal for procurement of weapons from the USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the USA to the proposal;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether therse weapons also include weapons which are manufactured in our ordnance factories; and

(e) if so, what is the justification for such procurements?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Consequent upon lifitng of sanctions by USA, it has now become possible to procure weapons and other ancillary items from that country. I view of the sensitive nature of the information, it will not be in the interest of national security to disclose the details.

(d) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Headmistresses/Headmasters Appointed/Promoted in NDMC Schools

*249. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO:
SHRI GANDHI AZAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Headmistresses/Headmasters appointed directly and also promoted from Primary/Nursery Teachers in NDMC schools during last five years and the number of SCs/STs appointed/ promoted during the said period, year-wise;

(b) whether there was reserved backlog before appointing/ promoting them;

(c) if so, under whose orders the posts were filled in and under which rules;

(d) the number of letters received by the NDMC from All India Association for SC/ST and Physically Handicapped Peoples Upliftment between 12th July, 2001 to date; and

(e) the details of action taken and reply given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The vacancies in the grade of Head Master/Head Mistress are